BENGALURU, MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 33 | Min 22 | Humidity 32% Partly sunny Sensex 73,583 | Nifty 22,819 | Gold 1,42,695 | Silver 2,23,636 | Dollar 94.82 | Euro 109.40 | GBP 126.15

IN ITS INFANCY

With clearance and funding, stage is set for roll-out of IVF facilities in govt hospitals, but implementation yet to pick pace in city

PAGE 3

TOW THE LINE

As vehicle-towing returns to Bengaluru, we break down all you need to know about much-debated system with renewed safeguards

PAGE 6

JP Park stands testimony to what half-hearted approach can do to grand plans — coaches and engines of toy train project lie broken and defunct and plinths with details about eminent personalities still await busts almost 6 years after work began

PROJECT FLOWCHART: START, STOP, FORGET, FORSAKE

Lake dry, plants withered and broken equipment piles up in corners of the park

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Jayaprakash Narayan Biodiversity Park aka JP Park is the third largest park in Bengaluru that is also known as Garden City. The government, including the then Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), had spent considerable amounts of money for the development of the park that was inaugurated by the then Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy in March 2006.

JP Park, considered as the Lalbagh of North Bengaluru, however continues to languish over the last two decades due to a tussle between politicians, who consider it only as a cash cow. Developmental work at the park lags on and even important projects such as the toy train that began more than six years ago, are yet to be completed.

Among the civic agency's plans in 2020 was a British-style rail station at the JP Park under the Chief Minister's Nava Nagarothana Scheme. However, the project is yet to be completed even after six years. It is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 >>

> **"Window panes of the coaches were already broken by miscreants and light fittings are either stolen or damaged. The authorities have been apathetic in protecting the coaches and the diesel-hydraulic engine that were bought using tax-payers' money**
>
> —Narayana Gowda, Mathikere resident

Traffic situation, not so fine

Bengaluru records ₹920 crore in penalties, but over half of the traffic fines remain unpaid

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

More than three-fourths of traffic fines imposed in Bengaluru in recent years have not been collected, data reveals, pointing to a major gap in enforcement despite a surge in violations and penalties running into hundreds of crores of rupees.

As per data presented in the session recently by Home Minister G Parameshwara, while the city has consistently recorded over ₹900 crore in traffic fines annually, the recovery rate has remained low. In 2024, only 24% of the total fines imposed were collected, meaning a staggering 76% of penalties went unpaid. Even in 2023 and 2025, when recovery improved to 43% and 44% respectively, more than half of the fines remained uncollected.

Parameshwara said, "The scale of violations has also increased sharply. In 2023, Bengaluru recorded 1,27,37,946 traffic violation cases, with fines amounting to ₹680.70 crore. This rose to 1,62,97,495 cases in 2024, an increase of nearly 28%, with penalties totalling ₹921.33 crore. In 2025, violations remained high at 1,60,64,622 cases, with fines of ₹920.89 crore imposed."

Despite the growing use of surveillance technology, including thousands of CCTV and Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, the data indicates that detection has outpaced enforcement.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Poetry night

Celebrate expressive poetry with the Bard featuring Robina, whose evocative verses blend emotion, observation and life experiences in an intimate cultural café setting. **Where: Urban Solace – Café for the Soul; When: March 31, 7.30 pm to 9 pm**

02 Easter brunch

Celebrate Easter with a relaxed, festive brunch featuring seasonal favourites, live music, indulgent desserts and fun activities for kids, creating a perfect family-friendly dining experience. **Where: JW Kitchen, JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru; When: April 5, 12.30 pm to 4 pm**

03 Morning melody

Experience a serene Hindustani classical recital by Anagha Bhat, exploring meditative morning ragas with soulful accompaniment in a tranquil outdoor setting. **Where: Lumbini, Jagriti Theatre; When: April 12, 7:30 am**

04 Match madness

Catch live IPL action in a premium lounge setting with curated food and drinks, combining high-energy match viewing with a vibrant social dining experience. **Where: Loco Lane, Residency Road, Ashok Nagar; When: Till May 31, 5 pm onwards**

05 Sweet scoops

Cool off this summer with Magnolia Bakery's handcrafted ice creams, featuring indulgent sundaes, loaded jars and classic flavours designed for simple, comforting dessert moments. **When: Available now; Where: All outlets across city**

Citizens mostly aboard government buses, but cleanliness is pet peeve

Nationwide survey finds RTC buses still dominate intercity travel, driven by low fares, reliable service and strong last mile connectivity across regions

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Government-run Road Transport Corporations (RTCs) continue to be the preferred mode of intercity travel for most Indians, driven by affordability, reliability and strong last-mile connectivity, according to a recent nationwide passenger survey. The study, conducted by online ticketing platform redBus between June and August 2025, gathered responses from over 11,000 users across the country. It highlights how RTCs remain central to mobility, especially for students and working professionals.

Why RTCs still dominate

The survey found that 52% of RTC users are working professionals, while 27% are students, making younger travellers a key segment. Travel motivations largely include visiting hometowns (25%), festivals and weddings (25%), work (21%) and education (11%). Affordability continues to be the biggest factor. RTC fares are typically lower than private operators, whose prices fluctuate based on demand. Fixed pricing during weekends and festive seasons has helped build trust among passengers. Students remain highly price-sensitive, with 46% travelling in the sub-₹750 range.

In states like Karnataka, free bus travel schemes for women have further boosted RTC usage.

Demand grows for better tracking and seamless booking systems

Additionally, RTCs serve smaller towns and rural areas where private operators have limited presence, strengthening their role as a lifeline for semi-urban and remote populations.

High satisfaction, but concerns remain

Nearly 55% of respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied with RTC services, while another 35% remained neutral, indicating that close to 90% of passengers are broadly content. RTCs scored well on punctuality, driving quality and staff behaviour. However, cleanliness emerged as a major concern, with 30% rating it poorly. Women reported slightly higher dissatisfaction levels than men. Among private bus users, 13% cited poor cleanliness as a reason for avoiding RTCs.

Digital gap widens

The survey also flagged gaps in digital infrastructure. Nearly half the respondents said booking and refund processes need simplification, while 39% pointed to issues with ticketing systems, including long queues and inefficient websites. Live tracking, now common in private buses, is available in less than 10% of RTC services, compared to nearly 90% among private operators.

Speaking on why RTC is still in demand and how it can be improved, Raghavendra Poojari H S, Program Lead- B PAC said, "RTCs still preferred because they are affordable, reliable and good last mile connectivity. For students and working people, cost is very important, and RTC tickets are usually less compared to private buses. One more big reason is RTC is free for women travellers in Karnataka, so many are using it. Also, RTC buses go to small towns and villages also, where private buses do not come properly. Private buses also start demanding more money when there is high demand like weekends and holidays, but RTC prices are mostly the same, so people trust it more. RTCs need to improve some basic things to attract young commuters. First, behaviour of conductors and drivers with commuters should be improved. Sometimes people face issues, especially women. Cleanliness also needs to be improved in buses and bus stands. Live tracking is very important so passengers can know where the bus is. RTC should also focus on regions like coastal Karnataka where private buses dominate,"

Urban mobility experts also stress improving connectivity from smaller towns.

"With a large semi-urban population surrounding our cities, it's crucial for KSRTC to prioritise their needs by deploying more buses from these towns with consistent schedules. Enhancing facilities such as comfortable seats, clean buses, online monthly passes, modern bus stations, diverse payment options, and real-time tracking will boost ridership, attract more passengers, and make these routes truly profitable," said Vinod Jacob, Urban Strategist.

Major cybercrime crackdown with new command centre

In a major move to tackle the rising number of cybercrime cases, the Home Department has reorganised the Criminal Investigation Department and established a dedicated Cyber Command unit to strengthen investigation and tracking of cyber fraudsters across the state.

As part of the restructuring, new senior posts including Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) and Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) have been created within the cyber wing. Units such as cyber training and research, digital forensics, cybercrime laboratories and sections dealing with narcotics and organised crime have been brought under the new Cyber Command structure. In addition, three Superintendent of Police (SP) posts have been transferred to the command setup.

The Home Department has also directed that existing infrastructure, offices and personnel will be utilised for the functioning of the new command centre, officially named DG Cyber Command.

All 43 Cyber Economic and Narcotics police stations across Karnataka have been renamed as Cyber Crime Police Stations and brought under the Cyber Command framework. These stations, including those under Bengaluru City Police, will now function under DG Cyber Command. The cyber laboratory within CID has also been transferred, while continuing to support investigations for other departments. **— BMB**

Palm Sunday prayers and procession

Devotees carrying palm fronds, reading from the Bible, and chanting hymns to mark the beginning of the Holy Week during a procession at St Mary's Basilica on MG Road to observe Palm Sunday

IVF facility in govt hospitals taking baby steps as of now

BPL card-holding couples await scheme announced in Budget to take off as other options too costly for them

Vasudha Zora
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka government's push to make fertility treatment accessible to low-income families is moving along with a ₹620-crore allocation in the 2026–27 State Budget for hospitals, medical colleges, and super-speciality facilities across the state. Announcing the initiative, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said ₹1 crore would be allocated to each in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) facility in government hospitals.

However, implementation in Bengaluru is yet to begin. Officials from Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute (ABVMCRI) said while allocations and approvals are in place, construction work has not started despite funds being allocated last year. "We have received enquiries on treatments from Gosha Hospital. We have the allocations, but the work is yet to begin. IVF programmes are complex and require planning, infrastructure, and trained personnel," an official said.

As per an official in Victoria Hospital, planning is underway following the release of funds, and officials indicated that groundwork will begin soon. Across Bengaluru's government hospitals, authorities say work could begin within a week or in April.

"IVF is a process where an egg is fertilised by sperm outside the body and then implanted into the uterus. These procedures, widely available in private hospitals, can cost between ₹1.5 lakh and ₹3 lakh per cycle, making them inaccessible for many

During the 2023–2024 budget, the state government allocated Rs 6 crore for four clinics to facilitate IVF services. Karnataka Medical College and Research Institute (KMC-RI) in Hubballi is the state's first IVF unit started in March 2024, building a support system with NGOs and government funds, which aims to reduce the financial burden on individuals from low-income groups. Doctors suggest that private IVF clinics can charge over Rs 10 lakh for a single child. Reports suggest that KMC-RI stated that the treatment will be free for Below Poverty Line (BPL) card holders and chargeable for APL card holders under subsidised rates.

A couple belonging to a BPL family in Bengaluru told BM they have been trying to have children for five years now. "Neither of us can afford the big hospitals we are directed to, which is causing us more stress," said the couple. They said they are losing time as they age, they feel it will be difficult to give birth. Due to stigma, they are not able to look at other options like adoption.

What is the scheme

The scheme, Ayushman Bharat–Arogya Karnataka, aims to bring advanced reproductive technologies within reach of economically weaker sections.

Treatments such as Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART), Intracytoplasmic Sperm Injection (ICSI), and Frozen Embryo Transfer (FET) will be offered in government hospitals, medical colleges, autonomous institutions, district hospitals, and registered private ART centres under the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act.

Officials say the programme is designed for Priority Household (PHH) cardholders, with each facility expected to support up to 120 beneficiaries for a year as a pilot project.

Eligible couples can avail of up to three ART cycles in their lifetime, including frozen embryo transfers. While final package rates are yet to be approved by the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) expert committee, indicative costs have been proposed at ₹1.2 lakh for one IVF/ICSI cycle without embryo freezing, ₹1.3 lakh with freezing, and ₹35,000 per cycle for frozen embryo transfer.

The setup for an IVF lab would require skilled embryologists and specialised equipment. Experts note that accessibility will depend not just on funding but also on infrastructure, trained specialists, and awareness among beneficiaries.

'Accusations general, dispute trivial': HC quashes dowry case against in-laws

The Karnataka High Court has quashed criminal proceedings against a woman's in-laws in a dowry harassment case, observing that the allegations were vague and arose out of ordinary marital disagreements rather than criminal conduct.

In its order, the court noted that the accusations made against the husband's family members were "general and omnibus in nature" and did not contain specific details such as dates, instances, or particular acts attributed to each accused.

The bench held that such allegations failed to meet the legal threshold required to sustain charges under provisions relating to dowry harassment. It described the dispute as stemming from "trivial discord" between the parties, rather than conduct amounting to cruelty under criminal law.

The case arose from a complaint filed by a woman accusing her husband and his relatives of harassment and dowry-related demands. However, after examining the material on record, the court found no substantive or specific allegations directly implicating the in-laws.

The High Court also cautioned against the practice of implicating multiple family members in matrimonial disputes without clear and distinct accusations. It emphasised that criminal proceedings cannot be based on vague or sweeping claims, particularly when they do not disclose any concrete acts of wrongdoing.

Observing that even if the allegations were accepted at face value, they pointed to routine domestic disagreements, the court concluded that continuing proceedings in such circumstances would amount to an abuse of the legal process.

Accordingly, the court set aside the case against the in-laws, reinforcing the principle that criminal law should not be invoked in the absence of specific and credible allegations. **BMB**

CRIME FILES

2 auto drivers chase, attack car occupants

An incident of a tech professional and his colleague being chased by two auto-rickshaw drivers last Wednesday on Sarjapur Road has gone viral on social media. The victim, identified as Shiraj Bhardwaj, shared that the men smashed the car's windscreen with a stone, and one of them assaulted him.

As per the complaint, the two men were in the car around 8.20 pm when an auto-rickshaw came from the wrong side and brushed the car. Instead of settling the issue calmly, the auto driver started chasing the car by repeatedly ramming it in order to break open the car door.

Shortly, a second auto joined the chase near the Sarjapur Bridge.

The pair continued to block the victim, during which one of the drivers allegedly smashed the windscreen while the victims were inside the car.

The chase led them to a gated RGA Tech Park, where the victim was repeatedly punched by the auto-rickshaw drivers and left injured. Pictures of his hospital consultation were shared in the X post.

The police arrived and caught the second auto-rickshaw driver while the first one fled the scene. The Bellandur Police Station has registered a Non-Cognizable Report against the accused. **BMB**

Smuggled phones to watch match in jail

A new viral video that emerged on Sunday from Parappana Agrahara Central Prison exposes serious security lapses at the facility, which is overcrowded.

The footage shows undertrial prisoners using smuggled mobile phones to watch shows, cricket, stream Netflix.

In the video, one of the inmates is seen talking about the RCB match. As per the claims of the inmates, the phones were supplied by an IPS officer.

Hours after the video circulated, the jail authorities raided the barracks and recovered mobile phones, which were hidden inside plastic covers in a bathroom water pipe. The Director General of Prisons has suspended three warders, identified as Shivaanad Karlabatti, Niranjan A. Kamath, and Hanumanthappa in this matter.

A case has been lodged against the warders, and an investigation into their actions is underway. **BMB**

Councillor attacked in Ramanagara

A municipal councillor of Ward 22, identified as Ajmath Ullah Khan, was attacked on Friday in Ramanagara district. In CCTV footage of the incident, it was noticed that three unidentified assailants intercepted Khan near a railway station and blocked his scooter.

The attackers allegedly assaulted Khan with a long weapon, suspected to be a machete. Khan managed to escape by an edge without serious injuries.

After Khan fled, the men went to his house in Gubbi Colony in Jantana Colony to find him. On not finding him there, the enraged group began to vandalise his property by damaging a car and two-wheelers parked in front of the house, and shattered the house windows with weapons. The motive of the crime is yet to be investigated by police officials. **BMB**

2 men snatch gold chain, flee

Two miscreants were caught on CCTV snatching a 55-gram gold mangalya chain from a woman, in broad daylight at Gudemaranahalli, near Hand Post in Nelamangala on Friday. The Kudur Police Station officials have filed an FIR against the two accused.

The woman, Ambika, was standing in front of a bakery, speaking with a friend, when the two accused arrived, pretending to drink juice nearby, and suddenly yanked the gold chain off her before fleeing.

The police are reviewing the surveillance camera footage and are making efforts to arrest the accused. **BMB**

Customer pilfers motorcycle gear

A regular customer of Motodrift Indiranagar was caught stealing motorcycle gear worth Rs 50,000 from the brand's two stores based in Indiranagar and HSR Layout.

As per the staff, the incident took place on March 8 and was recorded on CCTV cameras at the store.

The staff mentioned that they were keeping a close watch on the suspicious customer, who parked his motorcycle outside the compound of the shop, to avoid his vehicle number from being traced.

The staff allege that the man stole one Sena 60 intercom worth Rs 47,000 and a few base layers from TAICHI costing around Rs 4,000. **BMB**

Finally, in progress! St Mark's footpath no longer nightmare

After concerns raised over unsafe stretch, BCCC begins restoring St Mark's Road footpath, bringing relief to pedestrians and appreciation from citizens

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Pedestrians and social activists have welcomed the Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) authorities for taking up restoration of the footpath on St Mark's Road adjacent to Bowring Institute. It had been difficult for pedestrians, especially senior citizens, to walk on the uneven stretch for a long time.

Bangalore Mirror published a story, Broken footpaths highlight neglect in premium road projects, on March 24, narrating how broken stone slabs, missing covers on utility chambers and the uneven stretch of the footpath reflected poor quality work and apathy of authorities.

It may be noted that the BCCC Executive Engineer (Shantinagar) told BM that he would investigate the matter and take measures to fix the footpath at St Mark's Road.

Many people have appreciated the executive engineer for initiating work to fix the uneven footpath that was posing a danger to pedestrians. "I want to thank the BCCC authorities for taking up the restoration of the footpath. I want the authorities to ensure all footpaths are pedestrian friendly", said Krishnan M, a pedestrian.

Bangalore Mirror
Broken footpaths highlight neglect in premium road projects

Bangalore Mirror published a story, Broken footpaths highlight neglect in premium road projects, on March 24

Stating that it is good to see that work has started on the St Mark's Road footpath and that swift action has been taken, Vinod Jacob, an Urban Strategist, said this is a positive development and appreciated the BCCC officials for acting quickly. "We need more footpaths to be safe for pedestrians, especially for children and senior citizens. Also driving on footpaths and encroachments should be dealt with strictly with fines and penalties", said Vinod Jacob. Demanding the BCCC authorities to ensure quality in developmental works, Brahmananda S, a pedestrian, said he was shocked to see footpaths in bad condition. "It is not clear how the stone slabs were broken and who is responsible for missing covers on utility chambers", he said.

"We need more footpaths to be safe for pedestrians, especially for children and senior citizens. Also driving on footpaths and encroachments should be dealt with strictly with fines and penalties

– Vinod Jacob, Urban Strategist

Citizens slam wastage of tax-payers' money

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The lake at JP Park

The plinth meant for installing Maasthi Venkatesha Iyengar bust

amusing to see the coaches and the diesel-hydraulic engine of the train lying idle on the pathway of the park. According to the details mentioned on the VIN Tag, the diesel-hydraulic locomotive was bought in August 2023 but it has been lying idle for the last three years on the pathway of the park.

"The coaches and the diesel-hydraulic engine have been lying idle. I do not know if these are in working condition. Window panes of the coaches were already broken by miscreants and light fittings are either stolen or damaged. The authorities have been apathetic in protecting the coaches and the diesel-hydraulic engine that were brought by tax-payers' money," said Narayana Gowda, a resident of Mathikere, who visits the JP Park for a walk in the morning and evening. Some visitors did not want to comment on the ongoing developmental works, but a few of them told BM that they want the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) to ensure there is no wastage of funds. They demanded that the authorities focus on ensuring quality in the ongoing developmental works rather than dancing to the tunes of contractors and politicians.

"The lake is dry and some of the saplings are withered due to shortage of water. The park and the lake are known as favourite destinations for people residing at nearby areas. Now, the maintenance of the park is far from satisfactory. Some portions of the park look like dumping places for broken equipment," said Prakash K, a resident.

It is shocking to see empty plinths without busts along the walking path in the park. The plinths have all the information about the busts but the authorities concerned have forgotten to install the busts on the plinths. For example, there are plinths with details of Kittur Rani Channamma, Dr Chandrasekhara Kambara, a distinguished poet, who was conferred the Padma Bhushan, St. Mother Teresa, Sir M Visvesvaraya, Masthi Venkatesha Iyengar, but busts of the personalities are yet to be installed. These plinths were installed in the park in 2018. "Shame on the authorities for not installing the busts of prominent personalities even after six years. I suggest the authorities remove the plinths also," said Surendra N, a resident of the area. BNCC (Horticulture) Superintending Engineer told BM that the Horticulture Department has nothing to do with the ongoing or pending developmental works. "There is a shortage of water. We have engaged a contractor to supply water for plants and saplings," said the Superintending Engineer. Raja Rajeshwari Nagar MLA Munirathna Naidu was not available for comment.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247
Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

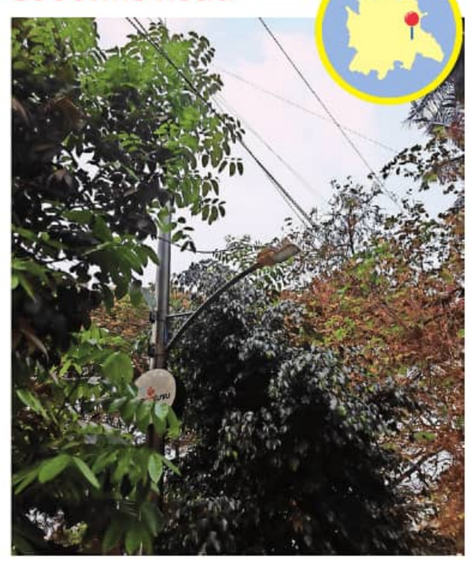
IMPACT: Quick action

Majestic

Photo coverage prompts traffic police to clear a broken waste auto, helping ease traffic congestion in Majestic.

Dark stretch

St Johns Road



Three streetlights have remained non-functional for three months on St Johns Church Road despite repeated complaints, raising safety concerns amid recent thefts.

Civic lapse

Ashok Nagar

Cut and dried plants have remained uncleared on the footpath for over a week near St Joseph's Indian High School in Ashok Nagar, causing inconvenience to pedestrians.

‘Data, digital assets exclusive property of company, not its shareholders’

Director and shareholder’s plea to quash criminal proceedings against him over charge of unauthorised access to and deletion of company data rejected

The Karnataka High Court has clarified that a company’s data and digital assets are the exclusive property of the company itself, and not of its shareholders or directors, reaffirming the principle of separate corporate identity.

The observation came in a case where a director and shareholder sought to quash criminal proceedings initiated against him over allegations of unauthorised access to and deletion of company data. The petitioner had contended that, as a shareholder, he had equal rights over the company’s data and therefore could not be accused of wrongdoing.

The court rejected this argument, terming it “wholly misconceived.” It cautioned that accepting such a position would fundamentally undermine corporate law, noting that “to accept the proposition that each shareholder may lay claim to the company’s assets would lead to juridical chaos, eroding the very edifice of corporate personality.”

Reiterating established legal principles, the bench emphasised that a company, once incorporated, has a legal identity distinct from its members. It observed that “the property of the company, whether tangible or intangible, vests in the company alone.”

The court also highlighted that in today’s digital landscape, corporate assets go far beyond physical property. It noted that “the assets of the company are not confined to physical or movable properties… they extend in significant measure to data, code, and intellectual property.”

The case stemmed from allegations that the petitioner had accessed restricted systems, altered operational parameters, and deleted key data and system logs related to the company’s functioning. The complainant argued that such actions constituted serious misconduct and potential cyber offences. The High Court agreed that the allegations warranted investigation, observing that acts such as “downloading, copying, deletion of source code, proprietary data and confidential digital assets” fall within the realm of cybercrime and require technical scrutiny.

Rejecting the claim that the dispute was purely civil in nature, the court noted the complexity involved in examining digital evidence and declined to interfere at the preliminary stage.

Accordingly, the petition was dismissed, with the court allowing the investigation to proceed and underscoring that a shareholder cannot claim ownership over company assets to shield themselves from allegations of data misuse. **— BMB**

Letter to varsity chancellor calls out teacher’s hate speech, demands apology

Educational institutions must remain safe and inclusive, says group stressing on need to create anti-discrimination policy for campuses

| Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A civil society collective, Bahutva Karnataka, has written to the Chancellor of PES University raising serious concerns over an incident of hate speech involving a faculty member and a Muslim student on campus. In its letter to Chancellor Professor Jawahar Doreswamy, the group referred to reports and a widely circulated video in which a professor, identified as Dr Muralidhar Deshpande, is seen verbally abusing a student and calling him a “terrorist” in front of his classmates. The organisation stated that the episode “undoubtedly constitutes a crime of hate speech” and described it as deeply disturbing.

The letter notes that the incident “cannot but have caused immense anguish” to the student, identified as Affan, as well as to his family and other members of the Muslim community within the university. It emphasised that educational institutions must remain safe and inclusive spaces, warning that targeting a student based on religious identity “automatically creates an unsafe space… for all students who are from marginalised backgrounds.” Raising questions about institutional responsibility, the group pointed to the university’s stated vision “to create a professionally superior and ethically strong global workforce,” and asked, “How do you create an ethically strong workforce… when faculty members… seem to lack not just ethics, but humanity?”

The organisation also flagged a series of concerns surrounding the incident. It cited reports suggesting that students, who supported the affected student may have been suspended, and alleged that CCTV footage of the classroom episode had been deleted. It further noted that there has been no clear public response from the university so far.

File photo of a citizens’ uprising against casteism and Islamophobia in front of Town Hall

“How do you create an ethically strong workforce... when faculty members... seem to lack not just ethics, but humanity?

– From Bahutva Karnataka’s letter

Invoking constitutional values, the letter stated, “the hate speech that the professor let loose is an attack on the student’s dignity, freedom and the preambular value of fraternity,” adding that such actions amount to “an attack on democracy itself.”

Quoting Dr. BR Ambedkar, the group underscored that “Democracy is not merely a form of Government… it is essentially an attitude of respect and reverence towards fellowmen,” and argued that incidents of this nature undermine that ethos. The letter also referred to judicial observations on hate speech, noting that such expression seeks to “marginalise individuals based on their membership in a group” and can have wider societal consequences beyond individual harm. While acknowledging reports that the university has suspended the faculty member, the group said this step alone is insufficient. It has called on the institution to take further action, including issuing a public apology to the student and his family, cooperating with the police investigation, and conducting an independent internal inquiry.

Among other demands, the organisation has sought an inquiry into the alleged suspension of students and the handling of CCTV footage, and has urged the university to “work with students to create a policy to address discrimination in the campus.”

The group said it is awaiting a response from the university and called for steps to ensure that campuses remain spaces “where all are respected and all are treated with dignity.”

SOCIALTATTLE

T J RENUKA PRASAD @drtjr... · 9h
Who is behind recurring fires at Jnanabharathi campus? - Bangalore Mirror
bangaloremirror.indiatimes.com

BANGALORE MIRROR TAGGED

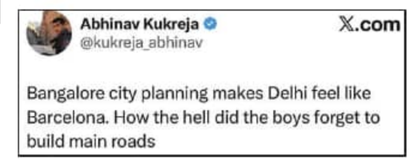
A netizen has expressed concerns about the frequent fires on Jnanabharathi Campus and posts BM story to raise the issue

THAT WENT VIRAL

@Pranj_Sometimes sums up Bengaluru filter coffee, startup dreams, and traffic reality.

@nilishamantri_ captures Bengaluru’s mood winter mornings, summer afternoons, and monsoon evenings.

“Where Are the Main Roads?”: Viral post roasts Bengaluru’s endless detours


Abhinav Kukreja
@kukreja_abhinav
X.com
Bangalore city planning makes Delhi feel like Barcelona. How the hell did the boys forget to build main roads

Netizens slam Bengaluru roads, praise Hyderabad in livability debate

BM SIMPLY PUT

All you need to know about much-debated system that is returning to city after 4-year break

It takes tow to tango

After a gap of four years, Bengaluru is reintroducing vehicle towing in no-parking zones, signalling a stricter approach to traffic enforcement. The move will begin in phases, starting with key parts of the city, and will involve coordination between civic authorities and traffic police. Officials say new safeguards have been built to address past complaints and ensure a more transparent process.

What is changing in Bengaluru's parking enforcement?
Bengaluru is bringing back vehicle towing as a penalty for those who park in no-parking zones, in addition to the existing fines. The system had been suspended for several years due to public backlash, but authorities now believe it is necessary to manage increasing vehicle density and road discipline in the city.

When will the towing system come into effect?
The towing system is expected to be rolled out shortly depending on final clearances along with trial run. These trial exercises will help officials identify any gaps and fine-tune coordination between teams on the ground.

Who will conduct the towing operations?
The towing drive will be conducted through a joint operation between the city's civic body and the traffic police. This is the first time both agencies have formally worked together in such an integrated manner for towing enforcement.

Which areas will see towing first?
In the initial phase, towing operations will begin in the central and western parts of Bengaluru, which are among the most congested zones. These areas typically witness heavy traffic and frequent violations of parking rules, making them priority zones for enforcement.

Will the system expand further?
Yes, the plan is to gradually extend towing operations to all five municipal zones across the city. The expansion will depend on the availability of vehicles and manpower, as well as the effectiveness of the initial rollout. The system will be scaled up to cover areas in a phased manner.

How will towing be carried out?
Authorities have introduced a more structured process for towing to avoid arbitrary action. Before towing any vehicle, traffic police will make announcements over a microphone, asking the owner to move the vehicle from the no-parking zone.

Will vehicles be towed everywhere?
No, towing will not be carried out indiscriminately across the city. Instead, it will be focused on roads and areas like Hosur Road, areas around Vidhana Soudha, Cubbon Park, Tumakuru Road, Mysuru Road and Ballari Road.

What manpower will be involved per towing vehicle?
Each towing vehicle will be staffed by a team of five members to ensure proper coordination and accountability. This includes two police personnel, typically led by an Assistant Sub-Inspector, along with three civic body staff members.

What are the penalties and charges?
The financial penalty for violating no-parking rules remains ₹500. However, once towing charges are added, the total amount payable increases significantly. This combined penalty is expected to act as a deterrent against illegal parking.

Who gets the money collected from fines and towing?
The revenue collected from these penalties is divided between the traffic police and the civic body. The fine component for traffic violations goes to the police department, while the towing charges are credited to the civic body's accounts.

Is there any opposition to the move?
Yes, the decision has drawn criticism from former Home Minister Araga Jnanendra, who has openly opposed the reintroduction of towing in Bengaluru also raised concerns arguing that the system had earlier led to widespread complaints and public dissatisfaction.

What are the concerns raised?
Critics, including Jnanendra, have warned about the possible return of what they describe as a 'towing mafia'. They allege that in the past, towing operations were marked by harassment, lack of accountability, and even corruption involving contractors and officials.

Why was towing stopped earlier?
The towing system was discontinued in 2022 after numerous complaints from the public about misconduct by towing staff. There were allegations of vehicles being towed arbitrarily, rude behaviour by personnel, and lack of transparency in the process.

What is the criticism of the current policy?
Opponents argue that the government may be relying on fines and towing charges as a source of revenue. They believe this approach could place an unfair burden on citizens and lead to unnecessary inconvenience, especially if not implemented carefully.

What is the government's stance?
Officials have defended the move, stating that the reintroduced system will be more transparent, regulated and limited in scope. They emphasise that towing will only take place in critical areas and after proper warnings are issued.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Language clash
In a lively debate in the Karnataka Assembly last week, two ruling party MLAs clashed over the medium of instruction for children's education. Congress MLA KM Shivalingegowda argued for English-medium instruction, citing that rural and economically weaker children need English to compete globally, while Basavaraj Rayareddy insisted Kannada should remain central, highlighting examples of achievers educated in Kannada. Amid the back-and-forth, the Speaker humorously asked where their own children studied, drawing laughter in the House.

Losing patience

Former Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda hit back at Rajya Sabha Opposition Leader Mallikarjun Kharge in the Upper House, accusing the Congress of repeatedly betraying him and his party despite his patience over the years. Responding to Kharge's remarks, Deve Gowda said the Congress had denied him opportunities since 1962 and even undermined leaders like Nijalingappa, Devaraj Urs and Bangarappa, while also toppling the JD(S)-Congress alliance within a year in 2018. He added that Kharge was aware of these developments and remarked that even his own party did not allow him to become Chief Minister.

Biometric attendance
Legislative Assembly Speaker UT Khader last week announced that a biometric system will soon be introduced to track the attendance of MLAs. The move aims to record the exact time of entry of members during Assembly sessions and will be implemented from the next session onwards. He also said approval has been received from Parliament for the digitisation of the session of business, paving the way for a paperless Assembly. The new system is expected to be implemented within the next three months.

Timely intervention
In a notable intervention, education department officials in Mundaragi taluk brought back an SSLC student who had skipped her examination due to poverty and taken up daily wage work and ensured she returned to the exam centre. The student, who had gone to work on a grape farm owing to financial constraints, was counselled by officials and persuaded to continue her education. She later appeared for her science exam, with the initiative drawing widespread appreciation for preventing a potential dropout and supporting her academic future.

Midnight marathon
In a rare instance, the Karnataka Assembly last week sat through nearly 14 hours of continuous proceedings, running late into the early hours of March 25. The session began at 11.37 am on March 24 and, barring a lunch break, continued non-stop till 1.42 am the next day. Even as the clock ticked past midnight, over 20 MLAs remained present in the House. Opposition Deputy Leader Arvind Bellad appreciated the Speaker for allowing proceedings to continue late into the night. Responding to the praise, Speaker UT Khader said, "It is my duty to respond to the voices of legislators. I was prepared to continue, no matter how late it got."

Timing twist

Not one for rituals, yet not entirely dismissive either. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the recent session admitted he advanced his Budget presentation on Friday to 10.15 am, just ahead of Rahukala at 10.30 am, acting on advice from his wife and officials. "I don't believe in such timings, but I respected their suggestion," he said, adding in the same breath that while he believes in God, he does not confine divinity to temples. Staying true to his rational streak, he remarked that days and festivals hold no special distinction for him, even as his scheduling quietly told a different story.

–Sridhar Vivan

Though KKR managed a challenging total, MI was on a roll from word go

SHARMA, RICKLETON POWER MUMBAI INDIANS' WIN

The last time Mumbai Indians won their first match of the season was in 2012 against the Chennai Super Kings. But they broke that jinx on Sunday at their home ground Wankhede Stadium.

Rohit Sharma was a man on a mission, who scored 15 runs in Varun Chakravarthy's over, then hit Kartik Tyagi for a huge six over extra covers on the first ball of the sixth over. He followed it up with another maximum on the fourth ball and brought up his fifty off just 23 balls. He departed after a brilliant and match-winning knock of 78 off 38 balls. His partner Ryan Rickelton stayed on to get to 81 runs when he was run out. But by then, the deal was sealed.

Rahane, Raghuvanshi fifties

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane and Angkrish Raghuvanshi scored half-centuries as Kolkata Knight Riders reached 220/4 in 20 overs in a start-stop-start innings against Mumbai Indians.

Asked to bat first, Rahane provided the early impetus to the KKR innings with a 40-ball 67, while Raghuvanshi provided the late finish with a 28-ball 51 after the Mumbai Indians had fought back with a three-wicket burst by Shardul Thakur (3-39).

Raghuvanshi and Rinku Singh (33* off 21 balls) shared a 60-run partnership for the fourth wicket that helped KKR recover from the mid-innings slump to reach what is being considered a par score.

After a quiet first two overs, the KKR opening pair of Rahane, on his home ground, and Finn Allen exploded into action as they hammered 54 runs in 18 balls as the team raced to their first fifty against the Mumbai Indians, reaching the mark in 23 balls.

The carnage started when Hardik Pandya introduced Afghan mystery spinner AM Ghazanfar, and the bowler was smashed for 17 runs in his first over, with Allen walloping him for two sixes and a four.

KKR lost momentum after losing Rahane, but Raghuvanshi pulled them back again by hitting Ghazanfar for a four, dropped by Rohit Sharma near the long-on boundary rope, and six straight down in the next ball to add more insult to injury. He struck Thakur for a six in the 17th over before Rinku Singh struck a four three balls later as they raised 50 runs for the fourth wicket partnership.

1. Mumbai Indians' player Rohit Sharma (L) and teammate South Africa's Ryan Rickelton R) run between the wickets during the IPL T20 match between Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Sunday
2. Mumbai Indians' Shardul Thakur, Naman Dhir and skipper Hardik Pandya celebrate the wicket of Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Ajinkya Rahane
3. Kolkata Knight Riders' Angkrish Raghuvanshi, left, celebrates his half century with Rinku Singh

Today's battle
Rajasthan Royals
vs
Chennai Super Kings
7.30 PM | **Guwahati**

Brevis is out with side strain, informs CSK head coach Fleming

If Mahendra Singh Dhoni's calf muscle injury wasn't enough, Chennai Super Kings have been dealt a second telling blow in the form of Dewald Brevis' side strain which will keep him out for the first few games, head coach Stephen Fleming confirmed here on Sunday.

The Super Kings will face Rajasthan Royals here on Monday in their opening IPL game.

"Brevis is out. He had a side injury during training. So again, he is rehabbing," Fleming said when a specific question related to Brevis' injury was put forth.

The CSK had already announced that Dhoni will be out for at least two weeks if not more due to a calf muscle strain but Fleming said the former skipper will still be heavily involved in planning. "It would be a game without him. But he's still heavily involved in the side. So, he's got obviously an injury that we're getting right, rehabbing. But his influence is still very strong. Hopefully it won't be too long (before he is back)," he said.

After a string of poor starts last season, Fleming underlined the value of having a good beginning to the tournament.

"And the first game really is the barometer of where you're at. So, the first game is always important. You want to get away to a good start.

"So that's really what the focus has been on. Once you start the tournament, it becomes a little bit more about recovery and the work in between," he said.

The addition of Sanju Samson, who is all set to replace Dhoni as CSK's face in the long run, is something that is exciting for one and all.

"So, there's excitement and enthusiasm around the squad. There's a little bit of a deviation from what we've done in the past, but there's now still a nice mix of experience.

"Obviously, the addition of Sanju Samson as well at the top is world class. So we enter this season in a pretty good space."

Last year, skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad's injury did affect the team' balance and Fleming hoped that the presence of a fit Gaikwad and a red-hot Samson would augur well for CSK. **–PTI**

'Our priority is safety of fans': RCB praise authorities for hassle-free start to IPL 2026

Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have expressed gratitude towards the authorities and the state government after the smooth conduct of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 opener played at their home ground, M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday.

This was the first big match held at the ground after the drastic incident occurred on June 4, 2025, when eleven lives were lost after a stampede due to thousands of fans gathering outside the ground to celebrate RCB's maiden IPL title win.

"RCB sincerely and wholeheartedly thanks the Karnataka State Government, Bengaluru City Police, Greater Bengaluru Authority, Public Works Department, Fire Department and Namma Metro for enabling the smooth conduct of our home game in Bengaluru last night," RCB wrote on X.

Team also reiterated their commitment towards fans' safety and wrote: "Our endeavour and priorities will remain the same throughout the season - safety and well-being of our dear fans!"

Players, officials and fans observed a minute's silence ahead of the match in memory of eleven supporters who died in a stampede during RCB's title celebrations last year.

RCB players exchange a handshake with SRH players after winning the IPL 2026 match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday

Both teams took the field wearing black armbands as a mark of respect, while RCB also warmed up in jerseys bearing the number 11. In a symbolic gesture, 11 seats inside the stadium have been permanently reserved at the stadium to honour those who lost their lives.

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) also unveiled a memorial plaque made in memory of the eleven fans and installed at the entrance of the venue, as top-flight cricket returned to the ground for the first time since May 2025.

Speaking of the match, SRH posted a mammoth total of 201 runs with the help of Ishan Kishan's 80 off 35. RCB chased down the total in just 15.4 overs to clinch the win by 6 wickets with the help of half-centuries from Virat Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal. **–IANS**

Kerosene rules relaxed

The Indian government said on Sunday it is relaxing petroleum safety and licencing rules to allow faster distribution of kerosene to households, as the Iran war disrupts energy supplies worldwide. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas said in an official notification that the measures would enable the ad-hoc distribution of kerosene to households for cooking and lighting in 21 states and federal territories. **Reuters**

Your Connect

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVES

COMPOSITE HOME SOLUTIONS
APARTMENT BUILDING MAINTENANCE PEOPLE
HIRING
FIELD VERIFICATION EXECUTIVES
ALL OVER BANGALORE
WITH FIELD EXPERIENCE.
SALARY WITH INCENTIVE.
CONTACT
98805 50350

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners: **Y.S.JYOTHIDEVI W/o Late Shashikumar.M and her children Sri.M.S.AJAYPRASAD and Sri.M.S.ABHAYACHANDRA**, residing at: No.115/10, Sharadhi, 15th Cross Road, Opp.Poornima Clinic, Vyalikaval, Bengaluru-560 003.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 14 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.20/01 (CITB/BDA Site No.369), PID No.53-5-20/01, having E-PID No. 1354150711, measuring East to West 56 ft and North to South 31 ft, in all measuring 1736 Sq.ft, with an old house thereon comprised of ground and first floors, situated at 5th Main Road, Srinagar, Banashankari 1st Stage, 1st Block, Bangalore-560050 and bounded on:

East by : Property bearing No.430
West by : Road
North by : Property bearing No.370
South by: Road

Sd/- S.F. GOUTAM CHAND, Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Vittal Tippanna Rathod R/o Manalingapur Village Soratur Gadag-20 Have changed my name to Vittal Rathod For all the Purpose.

I Aakulu Sreeram Setty Umesh S/O, Sreeram Setty R/o # 128/a, Anjani Bhawan, 4th Main,shastrinagar, Bangalore - 560070 have changed my name to Umesh.

I,ABDUL Waheed Abdul Subhan Khan.#09 chamundinagar Bengaluru 560032.I changing the name to Abdul Waheed

GET NOTICED

LAUNDRY X PRESS
FAST. FRESH. FLAWLESS
PREMIUM DRY CLEANING SERVICE

Specialized Cleaning
Saree • Shoes • Curtains • Carpets • Blankets
BULK WASHING Available
84800 90095 Laundry X Press
84800 90094 Website : www.laundryxpress.in

GALLERIA

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಲೂಕು ಮಟ್ಟದಲ್ಲಿ
ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನ
ಸರಕಾರದ ಅಂಗೀಕೃತ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್, ವಿವಿಧ ಕೋರ್ಸುಗಳನ್ನು ನಡೆಸಲು ಸುವರ್ಣಾವಕಾಶ
ಶಾಲೆ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾತರಿ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವ
ಟೀಚರ್ಸ್ ಟ್ರೈನಿಂಗ್ ಕೋರ್ಸ್
ಪ್ರೈಮರಿ ಟೀಚರ್ಸ್ ಟ್ರೈನಿಂಗ್ [PTT]
Diploma in Computer Teachers Training Course
DIPLOMA IN COMPUTER DATA ENTRY OPERATOR
6 ತಿಂಗಳ DIT, DCA, DOA ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಕೋರ್ಸುಗಳು [Qual: SSLC/PUC]
ಸರಕಾರದ PM ವಿಶ್ವಕರ್ಮ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿವಿಧ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆಯ ಪಾಲುದಾರಿಕಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಕಂಪ್ಯೂಟರ್ ಸಾಕ್ಷರತಾ ಸಮಿತಿ
Empanelled & Recognised by Govt. of India & Karnataka
The RCSS
Mob. 9008419955, 9901520055, 9449198555
Email: info@thercss.co, Web: www.thercss.com

WAR UPDATES

Will respond to ground attack, says Iran

Smoke rises following an Iranian missile strike, as the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran continues, in Southern Israel, on Sunday

Iran said it was ready to respond to any U.S. ground attack, accusing Washington of preparing a land assault while seeking talks, as regional powers met in Pakistan on Sunday to try to bring the two sides together.

The initial discussions in Islamabad with Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Egypt focused on proposals to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to shipping, sources familiar with the matter said. More talks will be held on Monday.

Iran's effective blockade of oil and gas shipments through the strait since the U.S. and Israel began attacking the country on February 28 is spreading economic pain around the world. Food and energy security and supply chains were among issues discussed in Pakistan, Egypt's foreign ministry said.

As the conflict entered its second month, Israel's military said it had launched over 140 air strikes on central and western Iran, including Tehran, over the 24 hours to Sunday evening, hitting ballistic missile launch sites and storage facilities, among other targets.

A chemical plant in southern Israel near the city of Beer Sheva was hit by a missile or missile debris as Israel fended off multiple salvos from Iran, prompting official warnings to the public to stay away due to "hazardous materials".

Another missile hit open ground near homes in Beer Sheva, located near several military bases, injuring 11 people.

The war has killed thousands of people and affected countries across the Middle East, with major aluminium plants in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates damaged by air strikes over the weekend. **Reuters**

Govt may consider more relief packages for vulnerable sectors

The government may announce more relief packages for vulnerable segments of the economy, including the MSME sector, to help them sustain and keep inflation under check in the domestic market if the West Asia crisis prolongs further, sources said.

The government has announced a slew of measures, includ ing cutting excise duty on petrol and diesel during the month and will not hesitate to announce more to shield the vulnerable sectors of the economy, sources said.

The government slashed the excise duty on petrol to Rs 3 a litre and exempted diesel from the duty to protect consumers from the impact of rising global crude prices amid the ongoing war in the Middle East.

Alongside, the government brought back duties on the export of diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) to improve domestic availability. Global crude prices have risen by almost 50 per cent since the United States and Israel launched military strikes against Iran on February 28, triggering sweeping retaliation from Tehran. **PTI**

2 more Indian LPG tankers cross Strait of Hormuz

The government may announce more relief packages for vulnerable segments of the economy, including the MSME sector, to help them sustain and keep inflation under check in the domestic market if the West Asia crisis prolongs further, sources said.

The government has announced a slew of measures, includ ing cutting excise duty on petrol and diesel during the month and will not hesitate to announce more to shield the vulnerable sectors of the economy, sources said.

The government slashed the excise duty on petrol to Rs 3 a litre and exempted diesel from the duty to protect consumers from the impact of rising global crude prices amid the ongoing war in the Middle East.

Global crude prices have risen by almost 50 per cent since the United States and Israel launched military strikes against Iran on February 28, triggering sweeping retaliation from Tehran. **PTI**

Forex cap: RBI urged to grant 3 months to comply

Lenders have urged the Indian central bank to grant three months for compliance with new foreign exchange position limits, noting that a quick implementation could trigger disorderly unwinding of positions and potential losses, six bankers told Reuters.

The Reserve Bank of India said after the market close on Friday that banks must ensure that by April 10 their net open rupee positions in the onshore deliverable market do not exceed $100 million at the end of each business day.

The decision to impose limits on onshore positions comes against a backdrop of mounting pressure on the rupee, spurred by an oil price surge and heavy foreign portfolio outflows following the start of the Iran war.

Following the notification of the new rules, however, senior treasury officials from both local and foreign banks met with central bank officials to convey their concerns, the bankers, who did not wish to be identified, said. **Reuters**

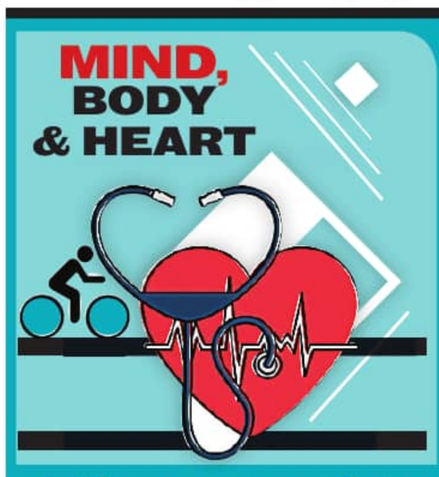
Need to improve fine collection processes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

While violations are being recorded in large numbers, ensuring that offenders actually pay the fines continues to be a challenge.

Officials acknowledged the issue and said steps are being taken to improve recovery. Measures under consideration include stronger follow-up systems, integration of digital payment platforms, and stricter enforcement for repeat offenders. "Action is being taken to improve fine collection and ensure better compliance," a police official said.

With nearly one crore violations being recorded each year, the gap between fines imposed and fines collected points to limited deterrence. Experts say that unless collection improves, the impact of penalties on driver behaviour may remain weak. "The data also reflects the scale of Bengaluru's traffic challenges. With rising vehicle numbers and increasing congestion, violations such as signal jumping, overspeeding, and lane indiscipline continue to be widespread. While technology has improved monitoring, enforcement on the ground remains uneven," said a traffic expert.



All you need to know about...

Dry brushing

What is actually happening

Dry brushing has been around for centuries in Ayurvedic practices, but its recent surge in popularity comes with bold claims about lymphatic drainage that deserve a closer look. Dr. Sagar Gujjar, Founder and Managing Director of The Skinwood Luxury Aesthetic Centre, explains what's actually happening when you brush your skin and whether those lymphatic benefits are real or just good marketing.

What does it do?

The process is straightforward. You take a firm-bristled brush, usually made from natural materials, and stroke it across your dry skin before bathing. Most people brush upward, toward the heart, using long sweeping motions on limbs and circular movements on the torso. The skin might turn slightly pink. It feels invigorating. You notice dead skin flaking off. But is that lymphatic drainage, or something else entirely?

Dr. Gujjar explains that dry brushing mainly works as exfoliation and improves superficial blood circulation. "It can give a temporary feeling of lightness, but it does not create true lymphatic drainage in a medical sense," he notes. Proper lymphatic drainage requires specific pressure and direction, which dry brushing usually does not follow.

What benefits can you expect?

People may notice smoother skin, a mild glow, and a temporary reduction in puffiness. This mostly happens due to exfoliation and increased circulation, not because of actual lymphatic detox. For real lymphatic improvement, professional treatments give much more reliable results. Think of it this way: dry brushing can make your skin look and feel better in the moment. It can be a pleasant ritual.

–Femina

Healthy treats

Is dark chocolate healthier than milk chocolate? 2 dietitians explain

Easter chocolate is all over supermarket shelves. Some people reach straight for milk chocolate eggs while others pause at the darker varieties, assuming they're healthier.

Dark chocolate has gained a reputation as the "better" choice because it usually contains more cocoa and less sugar than milk chocolate.

But is dark chocolate actually healthier? Let's see how the evidence stacks up.

How do they compare?

All chocolate begins with the cocoa (or cacao) bean. Cocoa beans are the seeds of the Theobroma cacao tree, a tropical plant native to Central and South America.

Processing the bean gives you cocoa solids (the bitter part) and cocoa butter (the fat part that gives chocolate its smooth texture).

Chocolate is made from cocoa solids, cocoa butter and sugar. Milk chocolate also contains milk powder or condensed milk.

Dark chocolate typically contains a much higher proportion of cocoa solids, usually 50-90 per cent.

Milk chocolate generally contains 20-30 per cent cocoa solids, with the remaining bulk made up of milk ingredients and sugar.

How about nutritional benefits?

Because dark chocolate contains more cocoa solids than milk chocolate, it naturally provides slightly higher amounts of certain minerals.

A look at the differences between milk chocolate (30 per cent cocoa) and dark chocolate (more than 60 per cent cocoa) per 20-gram serve. That's about one row of a Lindt chocolate block.

Dark chocolate provides more minerals such as magnesium, iron and zinc. It also contains noticeably more caffeine (but far less than in a typical cup of coffee, which would contain about 100mg).

Milk chocolate offers significantly more calcium due to its milk solids, but it generally contains more added sugar.

Cocoa is naturally rich in plant compounds called polyphenols. These act as antioxidants in the body, helping to protect the body's cells from damage.

Because dark chocolate contains more cocoa, it naturally contains higher levels of these compounds. In fact, dark chocolate contains roughly five times more flavanols (a type of polyphenol) than milk chocolate.

Compared to other foods often praised for their antioxidant content, cocoa contains around 17 times more catechins (another type of polyphenol) per serving than black tea. It also contains around three times more than red wine.

> **Dark chocolate provides more minerals such as magnesium, iron and zinc while milk chocolate offers significantly more calcium**

Does dark chocolate improve your health?

Research into cocoa and dark chocolate has produced some interesting findings, particularly about heart health.

Cocoa flavanols appear to help blood vessels relax and support better blood flow. Some clinical trials have reported small reductions in blood pressure and improvements in measures of blood vessel function after consuming cocoa products.

There is also broader evidence suggesting diets rich in flavanols may be linked with a lower risk of cardiovascular disease overall.

However, these findings come with important caveats.

Many of these trials use cocoa extracts containing high levels of flavanols. Others contain specially formulated chocolate rather than the typical chocolate bars or Easter eggs you'd find in supermarkets.

The doses tested are also often far larger and far more concentrated than what people normally consume.

A large umbrella review (a review of reviews) involving more than one million participants did find links between eating chocolate and lower risks of cardiovascular disease, stroke and diabetes.

But the overall quality of evidence was rated as weak or very low, largely because many of the studies were observational. Observational studies can identify patterns, but they cannot prove chocolate itself caused those benefits.

The bottom line is that cocoa does contain beneficial plant compounds but the chocolate most of us enjoy is not a health supplement.

But I thought dark chocolate has less sugar?

Choosing dark chocolate doesn't automatically make it the healthier option, especially where sugar is concerned. Some dark chocolate contains surprisingly high amounts.

Depending on the cocoa percentage and recipe, some dark chocolate products contain 40â "50 per cent sugar.

So a 150g dark chocolate Easter bunny containing 50 per cent sugar, for example, can contain about 19 teaspoons of added sugar.

This applies to Easter eggs too. Some dark chocolate Easter eggs sold in supermarkets still list sugar as one of their first and main ingredients, ahead of cocoa butter. This means sugar makes up a significant chunk of what you're eating.

So it's always worth flipping the packet over and checking the ingredients list and nutritional panel to be sure.

What to choose this Easter?

Dark chocolate has a nutritional advantage over milk chocolate. But how much depends on the cocoa percentage and how it's been made.

As a general rule, aim for 70 per cent cocoa or more, and flip the packet over before you buy. In a higher-quality dark chocolate, cocoa should appear first in the ingredients list, not sugar.

A higher-quality dark chocolate might have its ingredients listed in this order: cocoa mass, cocoa powder, cocoa butter, sugar, vanilla.

A lower-quality dark chocolate might look like this: sugar, cocoa mass, cocoa butter, emulsifiers, flavour, milk solids.

If sugar is listed first, it's the largest ingredient by weight.

Beyond that, choose chocolate you actually enjoy and watch your portion size. Remember that your overall diet matters far more than a few Easter eggs.

The real health benefit of Easter chocolate? The enjoyment of sharing it.

(By Lauren Ball, The University of Queensland, and Emily Burch, Southern Cross University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

5 questions to ask on a third date to gauge true compatibility

You've worked past the nerves of the first date, gotten through the butterflies of the second date, and now it's your third date. Here are five questions that can help you gather lots of information about your date without turning the date into an interview.

1. "What does your ideal weekend look like for you?"
This can give you great insight into how they recharge; whether they're an adventurous soul or a cosy fool. Knowing this in the beginning can help you determine your compatibility.

2. "Are you close with your family?"
How they answer this question and how they deliver their answer will give you some great insight into their emotional state, how they deal with complex family relationships and what the future with family may look like.

3. "What are you proud of right now?"
This allows them to discuss their values and goals without the pressure of having mapped out an exact five-year plan. Also, pay attention to what causes their enthusiasm; this may provide insight into what really lights them up inside.

4. "How do you handle disagreements?"
Conflict styles matter a lot in a relationship. Whether they are simply a talker, a processor, or someone who needs time to reflect, knowing this now saves a great deal of heartache later.

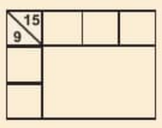
5. "What did you change your mind about recently?"
Someone who has the ability to have self-reflection, develop as an individual, and to admit when they have previously been wrong is a wonderful partner to grow old with.

–Femina

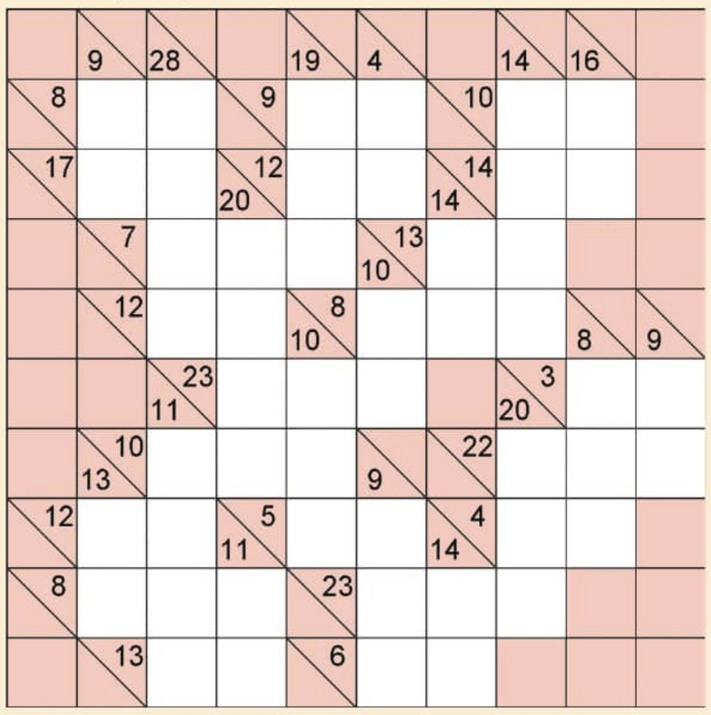
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Kakuro

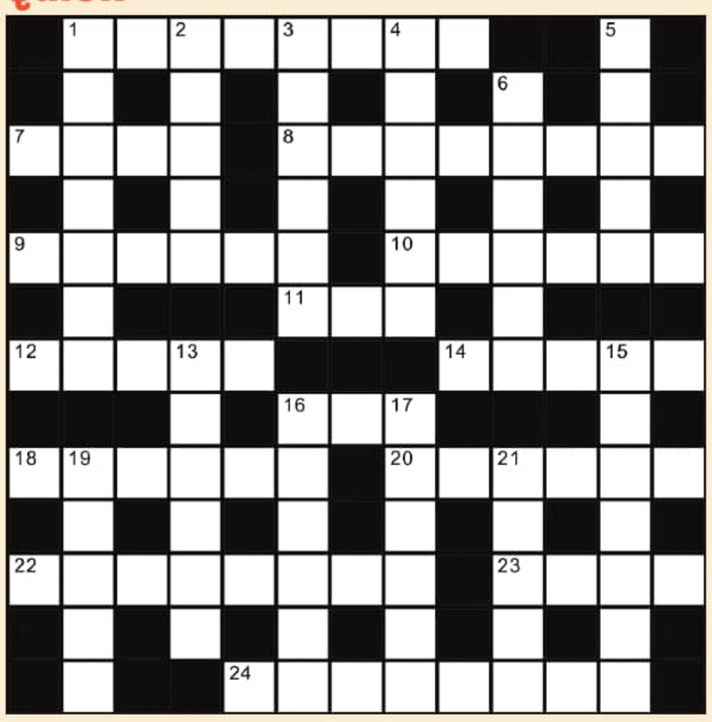
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Sky ___ : rose very steeply? (8)
7 Italian noble family (4)
8 An instrument for examining the ear (8)
9 Hurls or flings (6)
10 Free from obligation (6)
11 Fashionable or stylish (3)
12 Arsenal's local rivals (5)
14 Deduce (5)
16 Pamela's petname (3)
18 A large, Indian antelope (6)
20 Tourist destination where R K Narayanan's Malgudi Days was filmed (6)
22 Showing a profit or better off financially, in a way? (2,6)
23 Linger furtively (4)
24 Allows some captive to return to freedom (4,2,2)

DOWN

1 The ripe fruit of a rose (7)
2 Formula of belief (5)
3 Conceit (6)
4 Acted poorly (6)
5 Appear suddenly (3,2)
6 Partial partition (6)
13 Area or locality? (6)
15 Trade ban (7)
16 Preserve in vinegar (6)
17 Predatory insect–"ma's tin" anagram? (6)
19 Nearer the centre (5)
21 Without illumination (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS G

TRHMXTO DADS FRGDE HR RTD, HMKH XE QRSHM MKAXTO, DJFDBH KE K SDEYCH RP MKSZ QRSL.

Linemaro

You are so hot, you could make ice cream melt

Mindchow

Act the way you would like to be and soon you'll be the way you act

Joke of the day

I just gave my cat a bath. Now how do I get all the fur off my tongue?

Loop

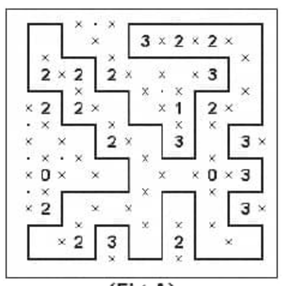
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

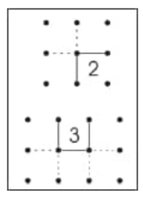
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

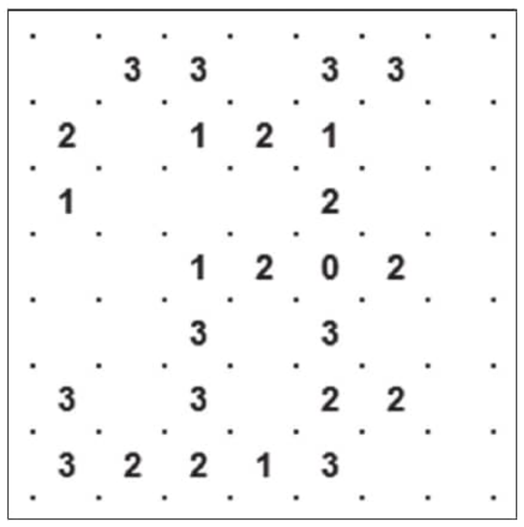
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



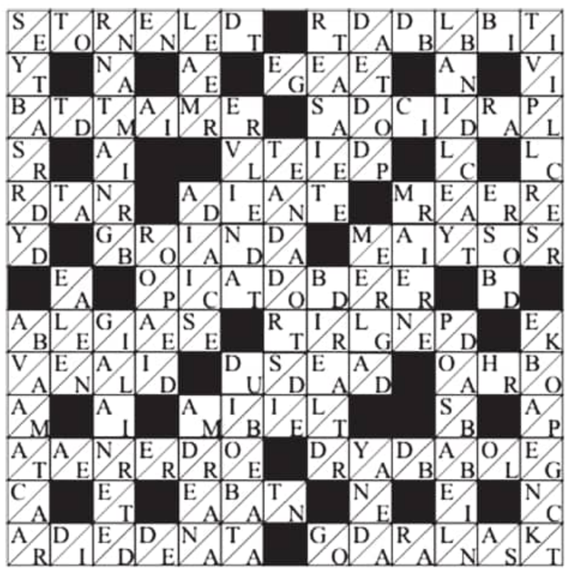
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



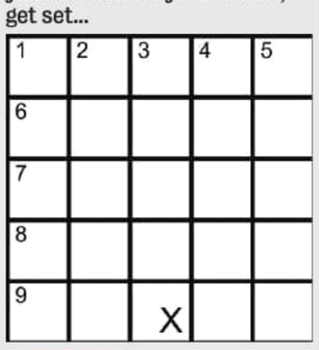
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Duad a; 6 Tones;
7 I wept; 8 A seer;
9 Index

DOWN

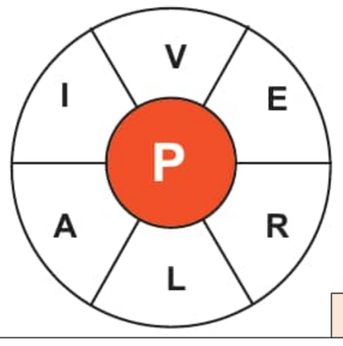
1 Panes; 2 True I;
3 Waxed; 4 Sane I;
5 Ted do

Mensapuzzle

Which number finishes this grid?

5	7	6	8
10	4	6	6
5	7	10	4
12	4	4	

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

15 Average; 17 Good; 19 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	6	9	4	7			8	
		2	1		8	7		6
5								
		8			1			
	7			5			9	
			6			3		
								1
3		5	7		6	8		
	1			2	4	9	3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 4

1 9 8 2

Medium = 18

2 7 8 1

Hard = 12

4 5 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

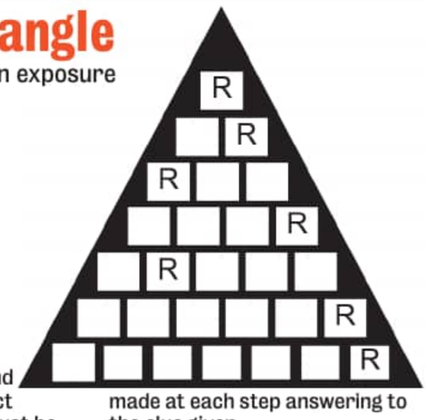
Differences: 1. Golf club is shorter. 2. Shirt collar is different. 3. Ball is moved. 4. Vest is different. 5. Scorecard is missing. 6. Cap is larger.

Riddler

Turn us on our backs And open up our stomachs You will be the wisest of men Though at start a lummox. What are we?

Alpha triangle

1 A unit of radiation exposure
2 Conjunction
3 Steal from
4 Physicist Niels
5 Thin soup
6 Harass
7 Male sibling

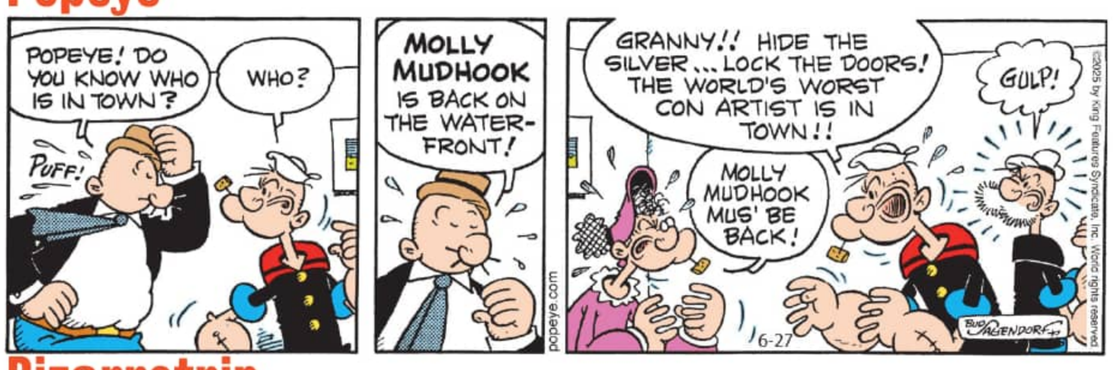


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

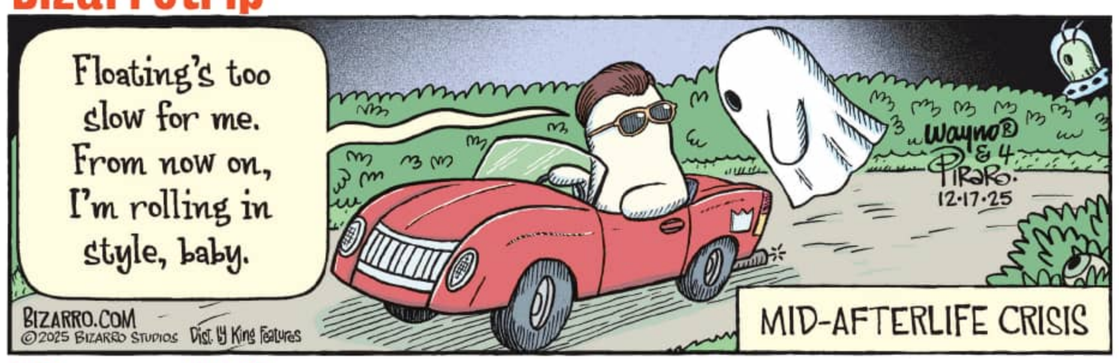
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


POPEYE! DO YOU KNOW WHO IS IN TOWN?
WHO?
PUFF!
MOLLY MUDHOOK IS BACK ON THE WATER-FRONT!
GRANNY!! HIDE THE SILVER... LOCK THE DOORS! THE WORLD'S WORST CON ARTIST IS IN TOWN!!
GULP!
MOLLY MUDHOOK MUS' BE BACK!
6-27
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip


Floating's too slow for me. From now on, I'm rolling in style, baby.
Wayno & Piraro 12-17-25
BIZARRO.COM ©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS Dist. by King Features
MID-AFTERLIFE CRISIS

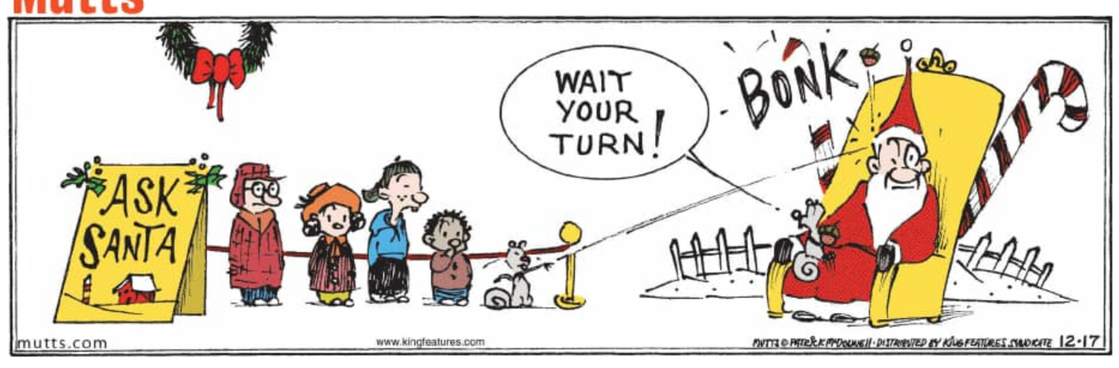
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

MY BIRTHDAY IS COMING UP!
HOW DOES IT FEEL BEING THE LAST ONE IN THE GROUP TO TURN 12?
WELL, WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, NOT GREAT.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Dr SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Adaptability becomes your advantage. Love thrives on shared laughter and curiosity. Career progress comes through flexibility and quick thinking. Financial gains appear through smart changes. Travel feels spontaneous and refreshing. Home welcomes new energy. Embracing change with confidence helps you stay inspired while moving smoothly toward evolving goals.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

A meaningful shift in perspective unfolds this week. You'll better understand how people and events connect, recognizing every experience plays a role within a much larger, purposeful picture.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

You're considering letting go of something that feels outdated. Pause before quitting entirely; even if its importance has faded, valuable lessons remain waiting to be understood.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Turning a setback into progress requires asking loved ones for help. Independence has limits, and accepting support now creates stronger outcomes than struggling alone unnecessarily.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Greater flexibility is needed in professional beliefs. What feels obviously correct to you appears differently to others, so widening perspective reduces conflict and encourages cooperation.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Restlessness pushes you toward escape, but rushing risks repeating dissatisfaction elsewhere. Slow down, evaluate carefully, and ensure your next move genuinely improves your situation.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Creativity fuels both earning and spending. Imagination attracts opportunities, yet also tempts indulgence. Balance inspiration with awareness, enjoying life without losing sight of practical limits.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Emotions may run high, leading to uncharacteristic bluntness. If someone is offended, don't panic. Temporary lapses happen, and balance will return quickly.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Insist on fair compensation. Accepting less undermines future value. Set firm bound, demand what you're worth, and walk away if respect isn't shown.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Extra effort early in the week lightens the load later. Push now, delegate where possible, and avoid shouldering everything alone unnecessarily.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Don't mistake silence for appreciation. Others may be testing your limits, hoping you'll overextend. Work smart, not harder, and protect your energy.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

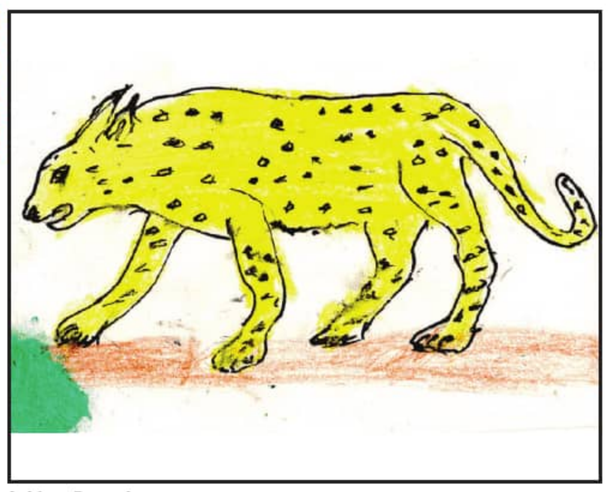
Ideas abound, but hesitation blocks progress. Too many options cause delay. Choose one clear goal, commit fully, and follow through until results appear.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

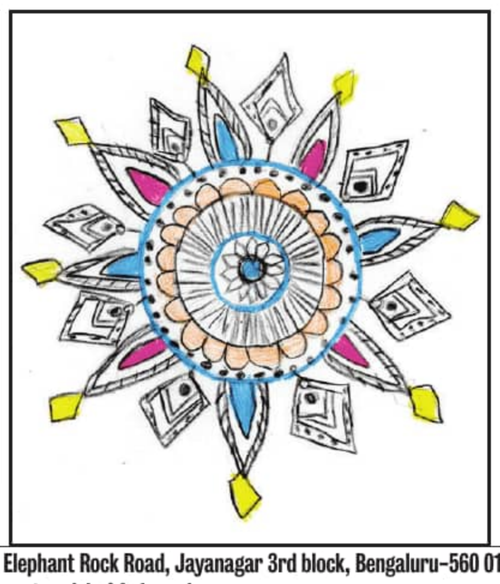
Focus is shifting toward self-care. Stop over giving, prioritise personal needs, and redirect energy inward. Your life improves when you place yourself first.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



Ashiya, Bengaluru



Mugdha, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

5×(4/5)-1+5×3 = 4-1+15 =18

RIDDLER

Books

STRIKE OUT

S	O	N	N	E	T	■	R	A	B	B	I	T	■	■
T	A	■	A	■	G	E	T	■	A	■	A	I	■	■
A	D	M	I	R	E	■	S	O	C	I	A	L	■	■
R	A	■	I	■	V	E	E	P	■	L	■	L	■	■
R	A	N	■	D	E	N	T	■	M	A	Y	O	R	■
Y	■	G	R	I	N	D	■	M	A	Y	O	R	■	■
A	■	O	C	T	O	B	E	R	■	B	■	■	■	■
A	L	G	A	E	■	R	I	L	E	D	■	K	■	■
V	E	L	D	■	U	S	E	D	■	O	H	O	■	■
A	■	A	■	A	B	E	L	■	B	■	P	■	■	■
T	E	R	E	D	O	■	D	A	B	B	L	E	■	■
A	■	E	■	E	A	T	■	N	■	I	■	C	■	■
R	I	D	E	N	T	■	G	D	A	N	S	K	■	■

FAST FIVE

N	I	X	E	D
E	R	A	S	E
P	E	W	I	T
S	T	E	N	O
A	U	D	A	D

QUOTE UNCODE

Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work.

QUICK

R	O	C	K	E	T	E	D	■	P	■	■	■	■	■
O	■	R	■	G	■	M	■	S	■	O	■	■	■	■
E	S	T	E	■	O	T	O	S	C	O	P	E	■	■
E	■	D	■	I	■	T	■	R	■	U	■	■	■	■
T	H	R	O	W	S	■	E	X	E	M	P	T	■	■
I	■	■	■	M	O	D	■	E	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	P	U	R	S	■	■	I	■	N	F	E	R	■	■
N	I	■	L	G	A	I	■	A	G	U	M	B	E	■
N	■	I	■	C	■	N	■	T	■	L	U	R	K	■
I	N	P	O	C	K	E	T	■	L	U	R	K	■	■
E	■	N	■	L	■	I	■	I	■	I	■	■	■	■
R	■	■	L	E	T	S	I	T	G	O	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

6. Numbers in each row add up to 26.

BULL'S EYE

leap, pall, pair, pale, paler, pare, pave, peal, pear, pearl, peril, pier, pile, plea, PREVAIL, rape, reap, ripe, viper

SUDOKU

1	6	9	4	7	5	2	8	3
5	8	7	2	6	3	4	1	9
4	3	2	1	9	8	7	5	6
2	4	8	9	3	1	6	7	5
6	7	3	8	5	2	1	9	4
9	5	1	6	4	7	3	2	8
7	2	4	3	8	9	5	6	1
3	9	5	7	1	6	8	4	2
8	1	6	5	2	4	9	3	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE

R, Or, Rob, Bohr, Broth, Bother, Brother.

GO FIGURE

Easy
9 + 2 + 1 − 8 = 4
Medium
7 + 8 + 1 + 2 = 18
Hard
7 − 5 x 4 + 4 = 12

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 18, Issue No 062 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Not judgy

Kubbra says she chooses to not alter appearance due to social media pressure but if someone wants to, that is their choice

Kubbra Sait is not one to shy away from speaking her mind — and her latest remarks on body standards and social media pressure are already sparking conversation online. In a candid interview, the actress, known for her breakout role in 'Sacred Games' and her recent appearance in 'Son of Sardaar 2,' pushed back against the growing culture of altering one's appearance to meet unrealistic beauty benchmarks.

In an interview with IANS, Kubbra Sait was asked if she thinks social media pressure on actors regarding body standards is becoming dangerous. To which she said, "I think we often blame the medium for our insecurities. But the real question is, why are we insecure in the first place? If you believe in yourself, no platform can make you feel insecure. I personally choose not to alter my appearance beyond basic fitness—that's my choice. But if someone else chooses differently, that's their decision."

The actress went on to say, "We need to stop judging others and focus on our own lives. Security or insecurity comes from within, not from social media."

During the same conversation, Kubbra Sait was asked how she has evolved as an actor since starting in 2010. The actress responded, "When you get a chance, it's important not to lose it, because that's where your growth lies. For me, consistency, discipline, and excitement have been constant. There was always this clarity within me —'I want to do this'."

The actress added that before becoming an actress, she had a "well-paying job abroad and was doing well professionally." Kubbra shared that she kept asking herself, "Was I truly happy?" She said, "When I came here, my journey made sense. When you work consistently in something that gives you joy, your journey naturally progresses, one step at a time."

–ETimes

Sneak peek

Kartik Aaryan and Sreeleela are currently filming for their upcoming film directed by Anurag Basu in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. And now, pictures of the duo have surfaced on the internet. The leaked images have left the netizens and fans of the actors excited to see them together on screen.

In the viral pictures, one can spot Kartik Aaryan, Sreeleela, and Anurag Basu having a conversation between the takes. The Kashmir backdrop has made everyone curious to know more about the film's story. In one picture, the actress can be seen donning a blue top and ripped jeans while wearing a red headscarf. On the other hand, Kartik stood nearby with his hands in his pockets.

The movie has faced several delays; however, the leaked images suggest that things are back on track now. As per the Moneycontrol report, a major portion of the film will be shot in Kashmir. From the pictures, it is also clear that the male lead will sport a rugged look featuring a heavy beard and long hair. This is the first time Sreeleela and Kartik will share screen space. Meanwhile, the makers have kept the release date and official title of the movie under wraps.

–ETimes

Sanya channels inner Kajol

Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol starrer "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge" is one such movie, whose every song, character, and dialogue is inked in the memory of movie buffs.

Proving the Bollywood celebs are also in love with "DDLJ", actress Sanya Malhotra was seen recreating the popular song from the film, "Zara sa Jhoom lu main" in her latest Instagram Stories.

Standing in the middle of the snow, the 'Mrs' actress was seen grooving to the track featuring SRK and Kajol.

"Zara sa Jhoom lu main" has been crooned by Asha Bhosle and Abhijeet Bhattacharya.

Recently, as "Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge" completed 30 years of release, Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol unveiled the bronze statue of their characters Raj and Simran at London's Leicester Square.

It must be noted that "DDLJ" is the first-ever Indian film to be honoured with a statue at Leicester Square, joining other cult characters from historic films, such as Harry Potter, Mary Poppins, Paddington, and Singin' in the Rain, as well as Batman and Wonder Woman.

–IANS

Love opera and ballet?

The 'Stranger Things' star Gaten Matarazzo recently made a playful remark at actor Timothee Chalamet's claims of nobody caring about opera and ballet.

The actor took to Instagram, and shared a promotional clip for 'Pizza Movie', which sees college roommates Jack and Montgomery take a hallucinogenic drug, and they have to reach their pizza, delivered by drone, to reverse its effects, reports 'Female First UK'.

Gaten, 23, said, "Pizza Movie is an American film that comes out on April 3, 2026". As the frame widened to reveal more of the background, his co-actor, Sean Giambrone, 26, popped up standing next to him.

He said, "It's on Hulu, streaming. It's not in the theatres, we wanted it to be in the theatres, but they said, 'No'".

Now, the camera shot panned back enough to reveal that the film's lead stars were standing on a park picnic table. It mimicked a video that Timothee, 30, posted to Instagram in December 2025 to promote 'Marty Supreme', a 1950s-set ping-pong drama loosely based on the real-life table tennis great Marty Reisman's journey to becoming a champion.

Timothee, who plays Marty Mauser, was outside when he said, "'Marty Supreme' is an American film that comes out on Christmas Day 2025". As the frame zoomed out, Timothee cheered and yelled, the iconic Las Vegas skyline appeared, including The High Roller ferris wheel, and it was revealed he was standing on top of the Sphere, an immersive music and entertainment arena.

The Sphere's LED billboard projected "Marty Supreme Dream Big". At the end of Sean and Gaten's version, the latter made the playful dig about Timothee's controversial comment that "no one cares" about opera and ballet. As the Pizza Movie graphic burst onto the screen, Gaten said, "By the way, we wanted to be clear, we love the ballet and the opera".

Sean quipped, "I don't". Gaten said, "Why would you say that?". In a resurfaced clip from his live conversation with 'Interstellar' co-star Matthew McConaughey for 'Variety', Timothee insisted that "no one cares" about the art forms of opera or ballet.

–IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Violent for a reason

Director Ravi Srivathsa, known for his action-packed Deadly Soma, Madesha, and Deadly 2, makes a comeback to Sandalwood after a gap of nine years. The teaser of his latest movie Gangs of UK was unveiled at SRV Preview Theater on Saturday. Veteran film distributor Sanjeeva Murthy, producers K Manju, Soorappa Babu and distributor Chandan Suresh were present on the occasion. The movie is scheduled to arrive in theaters on April 10.

"Some of the characters in this story are still alive and have been fighting against injustice in society. They have been waging a war on anti-social elements without protection or help from society or police," said Srivathsa.

Writer MS Ramesh, who has written the screenplay and dialogues, said that many people, who watched the movie's trailer, complained about gory scenes. "We welcome the criticism, but we want to convey a message that anger leads to big problems. We plan to make a sequel to this film," said Ramesh.

Song release

The lyrical audio of Sri Krishna was unveiled at Utsav Legacy on Friday. The song - Udho Udho Yallavva - is sung by music director-cum-lyricist MS Thyagaraj. The movie, which is scheduled for release in May, is directed by Shankar Raja Varma, who also plays the protagonist.

"I never dreamt of becoming a director. All the credit must go to my parents, family members, and friends. Prior to this movie, I directed Brahmarakshasa but its release was delayed due to some reasons. I had high hopes for that movie. This movie too features most of the actors seen in Brahmarakshasa. I thank the cast and crew for their cooperation. The movie has turned out well. Its trailer will be released on March 30," said Varma.

He said the movie is about three orphans. "The movie narrates their struggles. Some unexpected incidents land them in prison and they escape. How they prove their innocence is what the movie is about," he said.

The movie is backed by Shankar Raja Varma and Ajay Kumar PM.

Chaitra Totad from Hubballi plays the female lead.